

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SY-05 L-03 PER-01 AF-08 /058 W

----- 014262

R 271030Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6064

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

COMCBPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

COMCBPAC

MAC SCOTT AFB

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4065

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SN, US

SUBJECT: MAC FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE AND LEAVE FOR DIEGO GARCIA
PERSONNEL

1. SEABEE TEAM FROM HEADQUARTERS COMCBPAC (MAKALAPA HI) HAS VISITED SINGAPORE AND DISCUSSED WITH DAO NUMBER OF MATTERS RELATING TO MAC SUPPORT FLIGHTS TO DIEGO GARCIA. TEAM INDICATED MAC FLIGHTS WOULD BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8 AT INITIAL RATE OF THREE ROUNDTrips A MONTH --TWO LANDINGS IN SINGAPORE PER TRIP. (FIRST P-3 OVERFLIGHT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED WITH GOS CONCURRENCE ON AUGUST 25.) TEAM ALSO PROPOSED THAT TWO MAC FLIGHTS EACH MONTH BRING TO SINGAPORE ON "R & R" 14 MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WOULD STAY FOR MAXIMUM OF ONE WEEK. NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ON "R & R" IN SINGAPORE AT ANY GIVEN TIME WOULD NOT EXCEED 20.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVES GOS WILL POSE ANY OBJECTION TO THESE PLANS, BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL GOS BE ADVISED OF INITIAL FREQUENCY OF MAC FLIGHTS AND PROPOSED "R & R" ARRANGEMENT. AMBASSADOR DID NOT DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF "R & R" FOR PERSONNEL

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ON DIEGO GARCIA WHEN HE DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF P-3 FLIGHTS AND MAC

FLIGHTS WITH PRIME MINISTER IN JUNE, AND WE WISH TO AVOID TAKING ACTION IN THIS SENSITIVE FIELD WITHOUT CONSULTING GOS.

3. IF DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, EMBASSY WILL ADVISE MFA ON AUGUST 31 OR SEPTEMBER 1 OR PLANS OUTLINED PARA ONE AND SEEK CONCURRENCE. TO AVOID POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION WITH FORMER R & R PROGRAM FOR U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM VIETNAM, WE PLAN NOT TO USE TERM "R & R" AND WILL SIMPLY SAY PERSONNEL ARE ON ONE WEEK'S LEAVE. SUGGEST ALL ADDRESSEES DO LIKEWISE IF IT EVER BECOMES NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT IN HANDLING PRESS QUESTIONS.
HOLDRIDGE

SECRET

NNN

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